

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00
OMB-01 /109 R

DRAFTED BY USDA: RSCHROETER:WRF
APPROVED BY EUR/RPE: EACASEY
USDA/RFITZSIMMON,S
USDA/GHWHITE
USDA/TOYLOE
EB/ITP/DPATTERSON
STR/TREAGAN

-----113917 301748Z /44

R 301415Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 206838

USMTN ALSO FOR USMISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EC

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SUBJECT: EC TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF FRESH BLUEBERRIES
AND CRANBERRIES

REF: (A) BONN 13624 (B) BONN 12627 (C) BONN 12571
(D) BRUSSELS 7967 (E) BRUSSELS 9058

1. MISSION EC BRUSSELS IS REQUESTED TO URGE COMMISSION NOT

TO ADOPT DRAFT PROPOSAL NARROWING THE SCOPE OF CXT POSITIONS 08.08B (CRANBERRIES) AND 08.08C (BILBERRIES). OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR U.S. OBJECTIVE. REF. B PROVIDES NAMES OF MEMBER STATE OFFICIALS LIKELY TO BE CONVERSANT ON THE ISSUE.

2. THE DRAFT PROPOSAL ESSENTIALLY WOULD INCORPORATE INTO THE CXT THE EC EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION OF BILBERRIES AND CRANBERRIES. CXT POSITION 08.08B (CRANBERRIES) WHICH CARRIES A BOUND ZERO DUTY, WOULD BE REWORDED TO LIMIT COVERAGE TO BERRIES OF THE SPECIES VACCINIUM VITIS IDAEA, THEREBY EXCLUDING U.S. CULTIVATED CRANBERRIES (V. MACROCARPON). IMPORTS UNDER 08.08C (BILBERRIES), WHICH CARRIES A BOUND 4 PERCENT DUTY, WOULD BE LIMITED TO VACCINIUM MYRTILLUS, THEREBY EXCLUDING U.S. CULTIVATED BLUEBERRIES (V. CORYMBOSUM). THE U.S. BERRIES WOULD BE GROUPED

UNDER POSITION 08.08F (OTHER BERRIES) WHICH CARRIES AN UNBOUND DUTY OF 12 PERCENT. ACCORDING TO EC TRADE STATISTICS, THE U.S. BERRIES HAVE ENTERED THE EC UNDER ALL THREE CLASSIFICATIONS.

3. POSTS SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE SUPPORT WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVE OF CLARIFYING THE TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF BERRIES. SUCH CLARIFICATION, HOWEVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD NOT RESULT IN RESTRAINTS ON TRADE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES SHARE THIS VIEW. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DRAFT PROPOSAL AS NOW WRITTEN WOULD HAVE A TRADE RESTRICTIVE EFFECT. U.S. CRANBERRIES AND BLUEBERRIES, WHICH ARE VERY SIMILAR TO EUROPEAN VARIETIES, WOULD BE ASSESSED SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER DUTIES, PUTTING THEM IN AN UNFAVORABLE COMPETITIVE POSITION AND RAISING PRICES TO EC CONSUMERS. A MORE REASONABLE APPROACH WOULD BE TO GROUP U.S. AND EUROPEAN VARIETIES TOGETHER.

4. THE TARIFF BINDINGS ON CXT POSITIONS 08.08B AND C WERE GRANTED TO NON-EC EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BEGINNING WITH THE DILLON ROUND WHEN TRADE IN NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRIES AND CRANBERRIES WAS NEGLIGIBLE. WE ASSUME THIS IS THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE CXT EXPLANATORY NOTES LIMITING THE COVERAGE TO EUROPEAN VARIETIES. WITH THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BERRIES, THE EXPLANATORY NOTES SHOULD BE UPDATED TO REFLECT THE CLOSE SIMILARITY OF U.S. AND EUROPEAN BERRIES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FRUIT, AGREEMENT DRAFT, TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS, BERRIES, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSCHROETER:WRF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0655
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977087/aaaaafvp.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6740105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AGRE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 13624, 77 BONN 12627, 77 BONN 12571, 77 BRUSSELS 7967, 77 BRUSSELS 9058
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1626271
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF FRESH BLUEBERRIES AND CRANBERRIES
TAGS: EAGR, GE, US, EEC
To: BRUSSELS BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6740105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009